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### **STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE #4**

**(Management of Productive, Life-Sustaining Natural Resources Strengthened)**

#### **Mirant to fund P150-M off-grid power project**

**By Riza Recio**

Multinational energy firm unit Mirant Philippines committed to fund the P150-million cost to provide electricity to 150 remoted barangays, mostly in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) through the so-called ARMM Off-Grid Renewable Energy (Amore).

“We are selecting communities without electricity and with strength for livelihood, Mirant Foundation executive director Bobby Calingo said.

In partnership with Shell

Foundation, the electrification project will bring non-economic benefit for health such as containing incidence of malaria disease.

The funding component will be 90 percent devoted for ARMM and the rest for the outside provinces. The timeline of Mirant to implement rural electrification has stretched into four-year project until 2008 due to social preparations.

Being implemented under the program of the lead agencies of the government and the United States Agency for International

Development, the rural electrification project in which Mirant is the biggest source of private funds.

The project aims to provide electricity to some 6,000 households situated in remote barangays that are beyond the reach of electricity grids.

Some 160 barangays in the ARMM have been beneficiaries of the Amore and presently having provisions for electricity through solar panels that Mirant partly funded with each community raising P30,000 for the fund.

**(Source: The Daily Tribune, 2/09/06, page 8)**